

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Kane at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Steve Kane, Council members Richard Orpen, Rich Skordahl, Tim Brown, and Chris McClish. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Fire Chief Dean Kapler, and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE JANUARY 20, 2015 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND SKORDAHL TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 20, 2015, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS A-C AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. City Council Minutes – January 5, 2015
 - b. Tobacco License for Dollar General
 - c. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$ \$150,000.88 (Checks 68422-68484)Motion carried 5-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Tim O'Brien, 3175 Bridge Street, St. Francis. Our business (Temperature Specialist) is going to be losing the most land with the roundabouts. We did have plans to expand and this affects us tremendously. We have been here 28 years, most of our work is done under microscopes, and the large traffic volume will affect our work. We do a lot of federal government jobs.

Matt Look, Anoka County Commissioner, first I would like to address the new council, welcome. Former Commissioner Dennis Berg envisioned Anoka County obtaining federal funding to help with future roads in Anoka County and brought it to the forefront. I want to avoid a situation that happened in East Bethel. I do not want a former council to tie your hands either on projects previous councils approved. This project looked at the projected traffic count for future. I would like to see if you are supportive of the roundabouts. This project has 1.5 million dollars in federal support. Just wanted to see if there was support on the local level.

David Buelow, of Blaine stated he represents a number of businesses along Bridge Street. These businesses are staples of this community. Together they employ over 100 employees. This project is a major concern for Temperature Specialist. You are removing the access off Bridge Street, eliminating the future expansion in the rear of the building and no place for snow removal. Also with Village Bank you will take one away a way to get into the bank. The Jensen's who own the St. Francis Mall will also have concern with the ATM and the

accessibility to it. The mall tenants also have concerns with the traffic flow and how will it affect their business. Larry Anderson who owns the property on the corner of Rum River Blvd and Bridge has concerns along with Gerdins. Gerdins also has a concern with their car sales and the access to their facility.

Randy Diers, stated he is representing Village Bank here tonight. We have severe concerns with the roundabout and the right in and right out only, congestion and traffic flow for our drive through. Roundabouts are great but I think this is an over kill for Bridge Street. Forest Lake started out with a design for more and ended up with just one by working together. I am on the EDA with Chisago County and we are changing a route of a road but we did not do that without listening to the businesses and property owners.

Larry Anderson, owner of the property at 23038 Rum River Blvd, which I bought for an investment. I was hoping the green space would someday be a restaurant. I grew up here. I have put money back into the building. I went to all the roundabout meetings. The County basically said it was a done deal. Therefore, we did not think it would do any good to talk to you (council) because it was going to happen anyway. No businesses here tonight, want it. I heard they were going to talk about it tonight so I thought I would come. The reason I did not come last year was that I thought it would not matter. I think you have been wise in the past and hope you consider that tonight.

6. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**

a. **Anoka County Parks Department: Sugar Hills Regional Park Plan:** Karen Blaska from Anoka County Parks Department presented the Draft Master Plan on the proposed Sugar Hills Regional Trail. Ms. Blaska gave a power point presentation. This would include a ten foot wide paved trail that would extend from Lake George to potential connecting with Sherburne County following Bridge Street and going west on Ambassador Blvd. Part of the trail along Bridge Street would be part of the roundabout project. The Trail would be funded through a variety of sources. Currently we are getting comments from communities. We have an open house to receive public comment on Wednesday, January 28 at the Rum River North County Park Shelter. Once we hear all comments from the communities and public we will come back to the councils. The crossing of Hwy 47 is initially set for a tunnel. Skordahl asked why not make the tunnel across by Pederson Drive instead of up by Ambassador Blvd. That are issues we can look at Ms. Blaska stated. She thanked the council.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

a. **Resolution 2015-04: Temporary Extension of Franchise Agreement with Midcontinent:** MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND ORPEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-04 A RESOLUTION GIVING A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH MIDCONTINENT. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **Reports of Consultants & Staff Members:**

a. **Engineer:**

b. **Attorney: 1) Consideration of tentative agreement with Public Works on 2015-2017 Union Contract:** Lepak gave a brief overview of the Tentative Agreement with the Public Works Union Contract for 2015-2017. The changes are very similar to the Police Union. The changes in the three year contract are: wages 2015 - 3.25%, 2016 – 2.5%, 2017 – 2.5%; Change the Union

reference to City Employees' Union Local 363 LiUNA; Sick Leave to comply with the new state law; allow employees to use sick and vacation in quarter hour increments; eliminate Maternity Leave as a separate article this area would be treated the same as any other leave of absence pursuant to Article 10 except where a greater benefit is required by statutes, Holidays, amend Article 13 to provide that Christmas Eve will be a full day holiday if it falls on a Monday through Friday.

MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-05 A RESOLUTION APPROVING TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS UNION ON A 2015-2017 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. Motion carried 5-0.

2) **City Administrator Search Update:** Lepak provided a memorandum to the city council outlining the time frame in regards to filling the city administrator position. The job posting was placed on the bulletin board at City Hall, City's website, League of MN Cities, Anoka County Union Herald, the Associations of MN Counties, website for the Assistant City and County Administrators Association and the website for Economic Development of Minnesota. With these postings, it is also being picked up by more general sites such as govjobs.com. Applications have been starting to come in. Lepak stated he is looking for feedback for on a third panel member. The initial panel will consist of the mayor and a councilmember who are two of the three-person panel. For the third one I contacted the City Administrator of Andover, Jim Dickenson. Let me know if you think that is acceptable with you. I also would recommend an informal interview with department heads in the Community Room and conduct a personality assessment for the final two to three candidates. The final candidates would be before the council March 2. All the councilmembers agreed to have Dickenson as the third panel member. The council also liked the final candidates to meet the departments heads in an informal setting. The assessment is on their personality not a physiological test. I think it would be valuable. Lepak said with your agreement I will move forward with the timeline presented. Brown said during the final interview, how many candidates? Lepak said I would like no more than three unless we have four close candidates but not less two.

c. Staff:

Bldg. Official:

Fire Dept.: Letter of Resignation: A letter of resignation was received from Fire Chief Dean Kapler indicating that his role as Fire Chief for the St. Francis Fire Department would end with the finish date of his agreement with St. Francis. This agreement with the City of Ramsey ends April 23, 2015. Kane said we are faced with a decision. We can look at our department first, go out and advertise, or go back into an agreement like we have. The council agreed Chief Kapler has done a great job with the fire department. Maybe we could ask him to mentor the new chief. Consensus of the council to start an inter department search. Kane asked Chief Kapler to help with search.

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept:

City Administrator Report:

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Teicher stated if you have any comments on the Sugar Hills Regional Master Park Plan after the presentation this evening, please send me them before January 28.

The next step on the roundabout project, Anoka County will be the acquisition of land. There is a Property Owners Guide, Understanding Your Rights that will be available for council to review. This guide from Anoka County Highway department will be given to the property

owners. County Staff will be at the February 2, 2015 City Council meeting to discuss the roundabouts further. If you have questions, please send them to me so I can forward them on to Anoka County.

10. **Report from Mayor:** During my discussion with the non-union members they asked why weren't all the issues brought up to the council that were discussed. Kane stated he didn't forget about their other issues but would like to have a city administrator on staff so they are involved in the discussion.

Kane also reported he attended the last school board meeting. David Roberts was voted back in as Chair.

St. Francis Rec Committee: I have not had a report on the St. Francis Rec Committee for some time but we are still meeting. HGA did a very basis needs study for the group. We now are in the process of looking for some partners and after that happens more information will follow.

Just a reminder of the St. Francis Annual Chamber Dinner is January 30, 2015. This year they will have a comedy group performing.

The Annual Mayor Snowmobile Trail Ride is Saturday, January 31, 2015.

In regards to the roundabouts, I heard some things that I think we need to ask Anoka County. Brown said I would like to know the latest pull out date also. Skordahl would like to see a timeline of what has been done and what agreements have been agree on.

11. **Old Business:** Brown asked about the property behind the post office. Teicher said we are researching the property to make sure there are no legal limits tied to this property before the sale.

12. **New Business:** None.

13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk